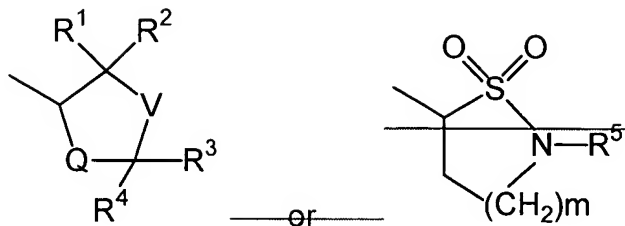


Claims 1-55 Cancelled.

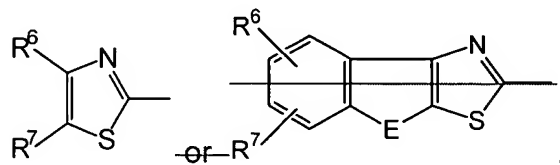
$$X^2-Y^2-Z^2 \begin{array}{c} \diagup \\ \text{---} \\ \diagdown \end{array} \bigcirc A^2 \quad (\text{II})$$

A² is a thiazolidine ring represented by the formula:



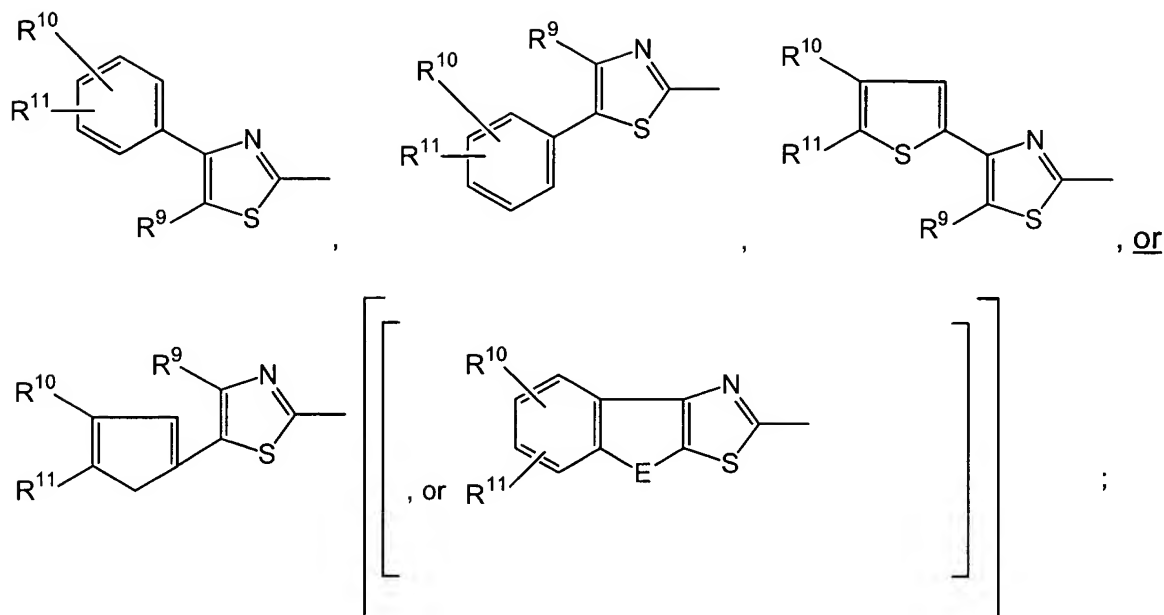
wherein R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, R^3 and R^4 are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, and R^5 is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl;
Q and V are chosen from -S-, and -NR^B-, wherein R^B is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl;
m is 1; and
a broken line (---) represents the presence or absence of a bond.

57. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 56, wherein X² is a group represented by the formula:



wherein E is ~~(CH₂)₁₋₃, -O-CH₂-, or -S-CH₂-~~; and R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, an optionally substituted thienyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl.

58. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 56, wherein X² is a group represented by the formula:



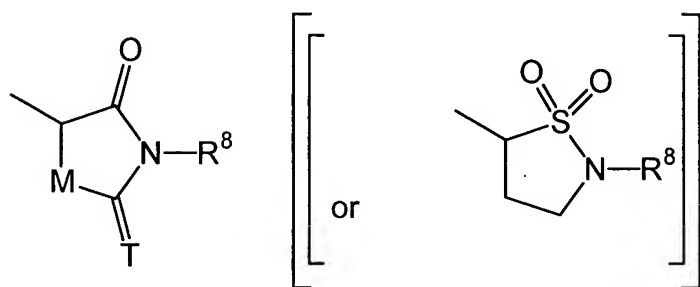
R^9 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino.

59. (Currently Amended) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein Y^2 is -NHCO- [[or -CONH-]].

60. (Previously Presented) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein Z^2 is 1,4-phenylene.

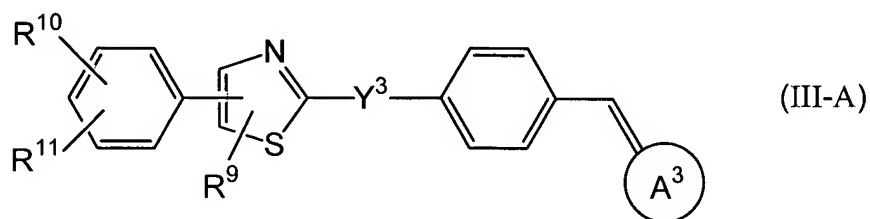
61. (Currently Amended) A compound of any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein A^2 is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R^8 is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-;
and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

62. (Previously Presented) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein the broken line represents the presence of a bond.

63. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula III-A:



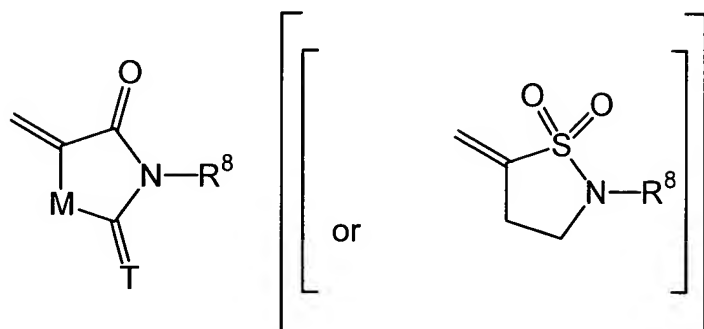
or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

R^9 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino;

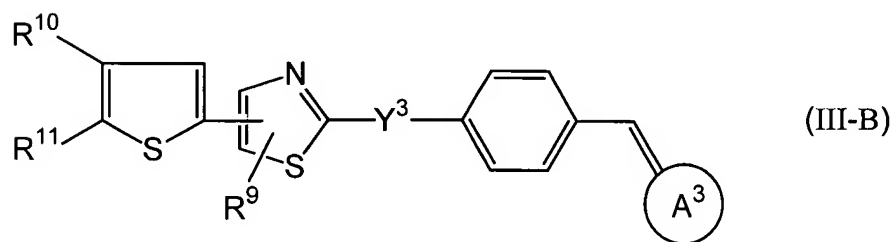
Y^3 is ~~-NHCO-~~ or ~~CONH-~~; and

A^3 is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R^8 is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-; and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

64. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula III-B:



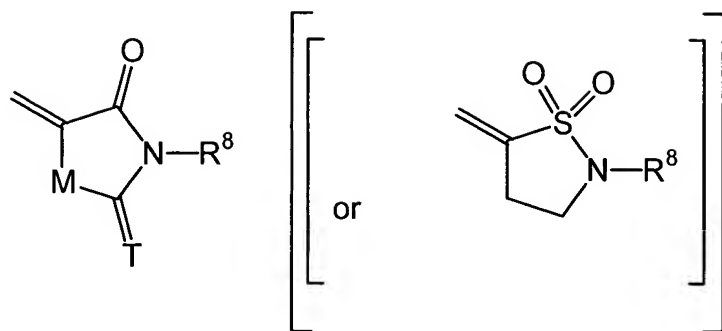
or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

R^9 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino;

Y^3 is ~~-NHCO-~~ or ~~CONH-~~; and

A^3 is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-; and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

65. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64 as an active ingredient.

66. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for exhibiting thrombopoietin agonism comprising as an active ingredient at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64.

67. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64, wherein the compound is a platelet production modifier.

Claims 68-69 cancelled.

70. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of the formula (I):



or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

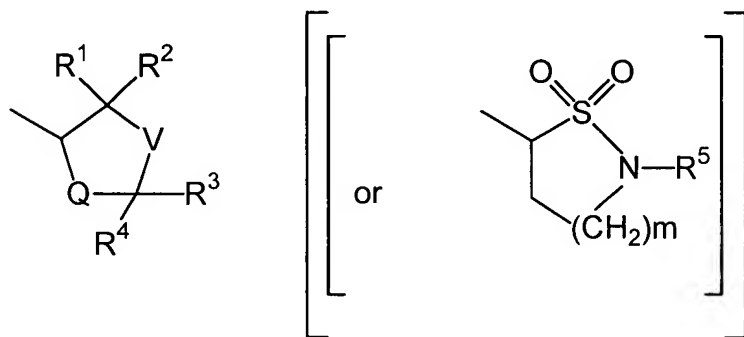
X^1 is an optionally substituted thiazole ring;

Y^1 is $-NR^A\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{0-2}-$,

wherein R^A is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, an optionally substituted aryl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted heteroaryl, or an optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

Z^1 is an optionally substituted phenylene;

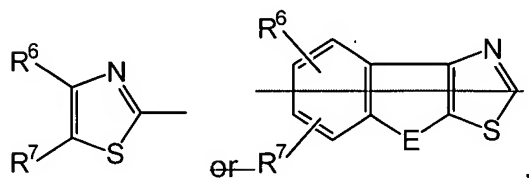
A^1 is a thiazolidine ring represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^3 and R^4 are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R^5 is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; Q and V are chosen from -S- and $-\text{NR}^B-$, wherein R^B is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; m is 1; and a broken line (---) represents the presence or absence of a bond.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to claim 70, wherein X^1 is a group represented by the formula:

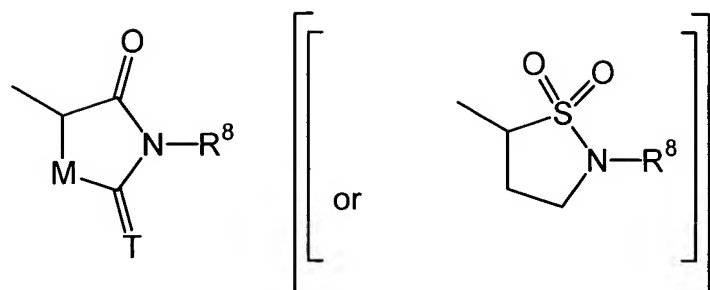


wherein E is ~~$(CH_2)_{1-3}$, $O-CH_2$, or $S-CH_2$~~ ; and R^6 and R^7 are each independently a hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, optionally substituted thienyl, or optionally substituted phenyl.

73. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 ~~to~~ or 72, wherein Y^1 is ~~$-NHCO-$ or $-CONH-$~~ .

74. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 ~~to~~ or 72, wherein Z^1 is 1,4-phenylene.

75. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to of any one of claims 70 ~~to~~ or 72, wherein A^1 is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R⁸ is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-;

and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

76. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 to or 72, wherein the broken line represents the presence of a bond.